

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF MONSIGNOR JOHN BEVINS

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Monsignor John Bevins of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, Connecticut.

This Sunday, Monsignor Bevins will celebrate the completion of 24 years of distinguished service to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and the entire Waterbury community. Prior to his appointment as pastor of the basilica, Monsignor Bevins was a Navy Chaplain for 23 years, faithfully serving his fellow servicemembers wherever he was stationed including Vietnam. Monsignor Bevins has dedicated his life to his church, city, and country.

During his time as pastor, Monsignor Bevins has built a legacy of innovation and compassion for the basilica and its members. He was instrumental in having the parish named a minor basilica by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008 and has been involved in the creation and restoration of numerous parish programs. From feeding the homeless every morning, to providing workshops for adult education, to leading a massive renovation project, Monsignor Bevins' spiritual guidance and good work has positively impacted countless lives.

Monsignor Bevins illustrates the power of altruistic generosity and determination to bringing people together and strengthening communities. I would like to thank him for his exceptional contributions to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and the Waterbury community. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy of service at Immaculate Conception will continue for years to come.

Congratulations to Monsignor Bevins on his retirement.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE VIETNAM WAR

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War.

The treatment so many of our veterans faced when they returned home from tours of duty was and is unacceptable. It is a dark chapter in our nation's history that we must never allow to be repeated. It is a testament to our veterans' unyielding call to duty that so many of them remain involved in veteran's service organizations and continue taking care of our troops as they return home from the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Georgia has a rich military heritage and her involvement in the Vietnam War is no different. Out of the 228,000 sons and daughters of our state that served in the military during the war, 1,584 were killed, 8,534 were wounded, 21 were held as prisoners of war and 35 are missing in action. Today, it is our honor to be the home state of an estimated 254,000 Vietnam veterans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the First District of Georgia, it is my honor to extend to our veterans this long overdue welcome home with the thanks of a grateful nation.

HONORING WAYNE BURGESS UPON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank and honor an advocate, employee, veteran, and community leader from my district, Mr. Wayne Burgess, upon his retirement. Wayne has been a fixture of the Groton community for nearly 50 years, as the longest serving Principal Officer of MDA-UAW Local 571, as the President of the Southeastern Connecticut Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and as a leader in countless other local service organizations.

His energy and commitment are boundless, as evidenced by his impressive accomplishments, beginning with his service in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Wayne served three deployments aboard the USS Taylor from 1967–1969 before returning home to work at Electric Boat, where he has remained involved ever since. At EB, he worked as a technical/test writer before being elected MDA-UAW Financial Secretary in 1988. In the years that followed, Wayne constantly saw new opportunities for EB and its employees. He began the EB School to Work program in the City of Groton that allows high school juniors the opportunity to work at EB during the summers.

Wayne also devotes his time to the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut, serving on the Food Advisory Board for the Gemma E. Moran United Way Center in New London and serves as the volunteer Chairman of the Charter Oak Credit Union Supervisory Committee. He is a devoted advocate for labor, for good jobs, for opportunity, and for the hardworking members of our community.

Please join me in thanking Wayne Burgess for the monumental impact he has made on the Groton community, and wishing him a peaceful and productive retirement.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of Trade Adjustment Assistance. Although it is important that we sustain this program, this is not the best reauthorization bill the House could consider. However, the program expires on September 30 and this legislation allows workers in my district and across the country to access the support they need to compete in our global economy.

Unlike the bill that I introduced with Ranking Member LEVIN earlier this year, today's bill has several shortcomings, including one of critical concern. This legislation cuts funding for worker training from \$575 million to \$450 million at

a time when we are expanding markets and transforming our economy.

We are in the middle of simultaneously negotiating trade agreements with Asia and the Pacific, as well as the European Union. Those who are impacted from increased competition deserve support and a safety net to adjust and reenter the job market.

The Administration recognizes that the \$450 million funding level does not take into account increased competition from Asia and the Pacific. However, Secretary Perez has assured Congress that his funding level is adequate to cover not only training services, but also case management, reemployment services, and state administration of the program—all areas that had been previously funded separately, not with a combined funding stream, like that in this bill. I hope the Secretary is correct but should this not be the case, I hope the Administration is prepared to work with Congress to provide additional funding with the same vigor they've invested in passing TPA.

I am glad to see that we are no longer paying for this program by cutting funds from Medicare. However, I am disappointed that this bill does not qualify public sector workers for Trade Adjustment Assistance. They are an important part of our workforce and should be able to qualify for access to the same services.

Our nation's economy and success depend on our workers. Over the last decade, I have been a strong supporter of Trade Adjustment Assistance and have led the effort to protect, extend, and enhance the program. I believe in this program and will continue this fight for good jobs, to ensure American workers can provide for their families, and that our country remains competitive.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on June 23, 2015 I missed votes due to a previously scheduled doctor's appointment.

HONORING MACKENZIE RONEY OF
THE HERCULANEUM BLACKCATS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mackenzie Roney of the Herculanum Blackcats for her first place win in Pole Vaulting at the 2015 Class 3 Track and Field State Championship.

Mackenzie and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community. She was also chosen as her school's scholar-athlete of the 2014–2015 year by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mackenzie Roney of the Herculanum Blackcats for a job well done.